

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CO-VE Bomber

MSGNO 10 (STXX) S 4A \*07/02/84\* \*10:59\*  
ZCZC 15:57:21Z (ST)

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

STATE

84 3310371

SCP

NC 3310371

TOR: 071548Z FEB 84

PP RUEAIB

ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH

UTS1834

PP RUEHC

DE RUEHCV #1115 0381544

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

P 071543Z FEB 84

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9632

INFO RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7269

RUESON/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 2205

BT

EZ1:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CARACAS #1115

EZ2:

E.O. 12356: DECL: 02/06/90

TAGS: PREL, PBTS, VE, CO

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AND COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTS RENEW  
NEGOTIATIONS ON GULF OF VENEZUELA

1. (U) SUMMARY: IN A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI AND COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT BELISARIO BETANCUR ON FEBRUARY 3, WHILE BETANCUR WAS IN CARACAS FOR LUSINCHI'S INAUGURATION, THE TWO PRESIDENTS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE GULF OF VENEZUELA DISPUTE, THE POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT INDUSTRIAL VENTURES ALONG THEIR COMMON BORDER AND OTHER MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) AFTER THE TWO-HOUR MEETING WHICH INCLUDED COLOMBIAN EX-PRESIDENTS JULIO CESAR TURBAY AYALA AND ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSON AND THE VENEZUELAN MINISTERS OF INTERIOR (OCTAVIO LEPAGE), DEFENSE (HUMBERTO ALCALDE ALVAREZ) AND THE PRESIDENCY (SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI), BETANCUR TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE BROKEN BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT LAST YEAR HAD BEEN RENEWED. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH NO NEGOTIATING COMMISSIONS HAD YET BEEN NAMED, "TELEPHONE LINES" DID EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION.

3. (U) BETANCUR ALSO SAID THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS HAD DISCUSSED THE AZURCA SUGAR REFINERY LOCATED ON THE COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN BORDER DESIGNED TO REFINER CANE FROM BOTH COUNTRIES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MSGNC 10 (STXX) S4A \*07/02/84\* \*10:59\*  
BI-NATIONAL COMPANIES. BETANCUR NOTED THAT VENEZUELA  
HAD NOT FINISHED PAYING ITS SHARE OF THE SUGAR REFINERY.  
BI-NATIONAL PROJECTS, HE SAID, COULD RELEGATE THE  
PROBLEM OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS TO A SECONDARY POSITION  
BY CREATING EMPLOYMENT ALONG THE BORDER.

4. (U) IN A RELATED STATEMENT, ISIDRO MORALES PAUL,  
VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN MINISTER, SAID THAT THE NATIONAL  
BOUNDARY COMMISSION (COMMISSION NACIONAL LIMITROFE),  
WHOSE CREATION WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED, WOULD BE AN  
ORGAN FOR THE PERMANENT ANALYSIS OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER  
THE GULF OF VENEZUELA AND THE ESSEQUIBO.

5. (C) COMMENT: UNDER PRODDING FROM JOURNALISTS,  
BETANCUR SOUGHT TO POINT OUT THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WHILE BETANCUR  
EMPHASIZED THAT DURING ITS FIRST DAYS IN OFFICE THE  
LUSINCHI GOVERNMENT HAD MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO DEAL  
WITH THAN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA, HIS COMMENT ON TELE-  
PHONES LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH HE AND LUSINCHI  
WOULD WORK CLOSELY IN THE FUTURE TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE.  
LANDAU

NNNN

NNDD

C O N F I D E N T I A L